

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Forest Service
State Forest Audit & Certification Standard Review

Pasadena Office
October 19, 2016
10am - 3pm



ATTENDANCE

1. Don VanHassent (DNR-MFS)
2. Kenneth Jolly (DNR-MFS)
3. Kip Powers (DNR-MFS)
4. George Eberling (DNR-MFS)
5. Scott Campbell (DNR-MFS)
6. John Denning (DNR-MFS)
7. Mark Beals (DNR-MFS)
8. Mike Schofield (DNR-MFS)
9. Alex Clark (DNR-MFS)
10. Rob Feldt (DNR-MFS)
11. Jack Perdue (DNR-MFS)

AGENDA

AWP approval procedures (no printed copy, just signature page) - All SF will now do this.
Sustainable Forest Management Plan updates - Jack will send updated Word docs to SFM for updates

Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) adjustments / necessity

WMA forest management issues - On the shore the WMA have hired a licensed forester. And the other issue is having WMA Forest Mgt Plans. WMA work plans and timber sales MUST (but have not been) going through Project Review. WMA work is not supervising timber sales, either.

- a. What will MFS role be?
- b. Sustainable management across DNR land units
- c. Plans and management must follow PR protocol

AWP Monitoring Projects listed in all AWP's e.g. SRSF sec VII - We will adopt this approach.

AWP public review - State Forest manager will work toward having all annual work plans ready for the public review process by Dec 1. AWP public review email announcement system - We will submit these to the DNR newsletter and possibly the DNR app?

State Forests boundary maintenance contracts (e.g. MA) – priority? how to fund? This work serves as valuable staff time, but may not be best use of our time. Boundary work may be too expensive to contract out. Current policy is very time consuming with scraping and painting. Not

all DNR units do it the same, either. SF does the best. PGSF is about 99% up to date. SRSF is mostly up to date. GRSF is in good shape too. CF/PSF uses aluminum tags, too, that last even after the paint fades. DNR Land Acquisition & Planning has a list of necessary survey work. The program is working better now than it has in previous years. Still on a five year rotation. New acquisitions now require a satisfactory survey as a condition of purchase. Stabilization Funds should be used to help maintain the new acquisitions. MFS Director stated that it may be determined as a legitimate use of these funds.

State Forests Sediment & Erosion Control Permits – update. All SEC plans are to be sent to Amanda Malcolm, with reviews done by Ethan Bright. We need a revised Standard Plan doc with new language. 1) Standard Plan 2) Stand map and 3) Vicinity map.

State Forests project review for utility maintenance – Some SFM feel frustrated that they have a legal obligation to this maintenance and DNR has little to say about this work. However there have been issues where they are forced to fix problems the utility company has caused in their work. Are these going through Project Review so that all land units have an opportunity to review and comment?

Timber Sales Online update – We are now working with new DNR IT team. SFM will be able to review soon. SFM seem to be interested in this project and do not see the concern that some NHP staff has issued to mapping timber sales online.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) – Some state forests have people that have somehow worked themselves onto the committee. The decision is to clean up the list according to the established protocol.

Critical Area Commission - Do state forests timber sales need to go to the Commission?

Forest Certification

Review of SFI and FSC Certification Standards & Compliance

2015 CARS/OBS/OFI Review

-Roads maintenance/culvert replacement status (SFI Minor CAR/FSC OBS)

What is next? What new have we to show?

Silviculture (SFI Minor CAR/FSC Minor CAR)

Are we on schedule?

SFI annual reporting

HCVF re-evaluation – MFS has We have been into this process long enough to re-evaluate our designations. Plus, we have some major acquisitions added to our system and need to re-evaluate our analysis. ESA Zone 1 only into HCVF - according to Chesapeake Forest manager

RSA analysis – does MFS plans include all succession stages? We will need to re-evaluate our current RSA matrix.

CF/PSF RFP - The new 5-year contract for silviculture management services will not likely affect the next audit cycle.

Acquisitions placement - Managers need to consider how newly acquired properties will be accessed and zoned.

State Forest acreages (annual update) - for forest certification reporting purposes, State Forest managers need to update the acreages reported.

FSC chemical restrictions & derogation - FSC has issued new restrictions on use of certain pest controlling chemicals. Maryland has joined with other states (and Maryland Department of Agriculture) in reporting use and obtained a derogation.

HCVF Monitoring – We need to review and re-evaluate our HCVF monitoring efforts.

State Forest Western Maryland Forest Roads

Gordon-Twigg Roads are on GRSF. This project is next up on the Critical Maintenance agenda for our roads work. Jack will send Mark Beals the DNR E&C cost estimates for this project. Question, can we split this project into two lesser projects so to make progress or do we lose momentum by this. Jack will check with DNR E&C.

2016 Audit OFIs

Trails - Trails was an issue at the 2016 audit. We need dedicated funds to maintain the ORV trails especially with the new one at St Johns Rock. Plus mountain bike trails and the expected new ones currently in development.

Performance bonds - if we need to collect a performance bond, we need access to these funds to fix the issue. It shouldn't go into some general fund. Ask Shenika about this.

WMD SF Conifer component

State Forest Metrics & Quarterly Reports – These reports all need to be using Excel – This is not an issue, just for printing.

Next audit - Week of April 24 – Likely to be just on the Eastern Shore

Forest Certification (Other)

SFI certificate number has been changed

2010-2014 certificate number :: 0Y301-**SF1**

2015-2019 certificate number :: 0Y301-**FM1**

FSC Standard

Sustainable Forest Management Plans

Indicator 7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.

HCVF Monitoring

Indicator 9.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.

Intent: Except where HCV attributes change rapidly or demonstrate ecological instability, or where site disturbing management activities occur, annual monitoring of all HCVFs may not be necessary and/or may be combined with other field activities.

Guidance: HCVFs that are not managed and/or are not easily accessible may have a basic form of monitoring, but the monitoring needs to adequately allow the forest owner/manager to be able to evaluate whether conservation attributes are being impacted.

Next State Forest manager meeting date - Wed, March 15, 2017